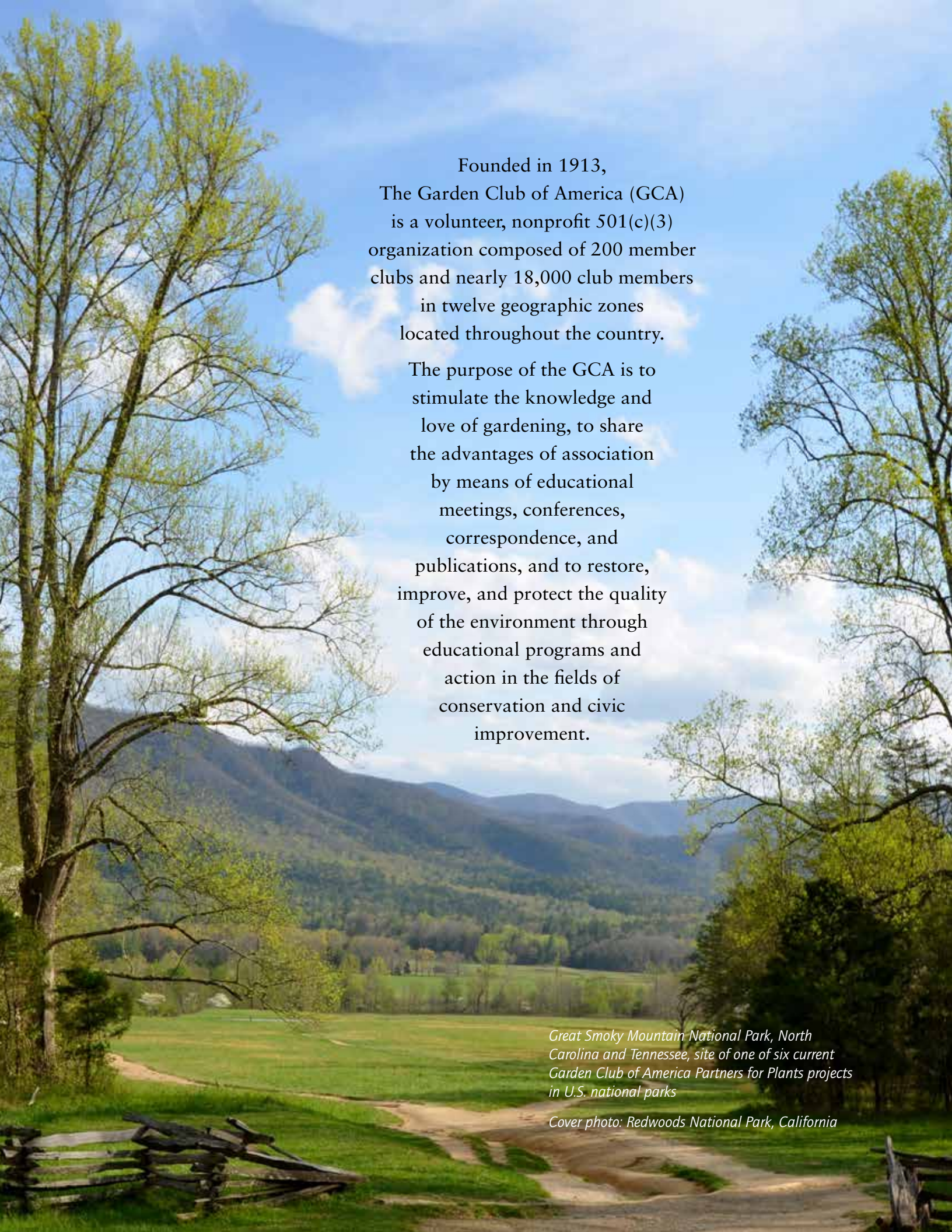




THE GARDEN CLUB  
*of* AMERICA

2015-16 ANNUAL REPORT





Founded in 1913,  
The Garden Club of America (GCA)  
is a volunteer, nonprofit 501(c)(3)  
organization composed of 200 member  
clubs and nearly 18,000 club members  
in twelve geographic zones  
located throughout the country.

The purpose of the GCA is to  
stimulate the knowledge and  
love of gardening, to share  
the advantages of association  
by means of educational  
meetings, conferences,  
correspondence, and  
publications, and to restore,  
improve, and protect the quality  
of the environment through  
educational programs and  
action in the fields of  
conservation and civic  
improvement.

*Great Smoky Mountain National Park, North  
Carolina and Tennessee, site of one of six current  
Garden Club of America Partners for Plants projects  
in U.S. national parks*

*Cover photo: Redwoods National Park, California*



# From the President



**A**t the annual meeting in May 2015, I reflected on three key aspects of The Garden Club of America experience – stewardship, leadership, and friendship – drawn from my decades of commitment to the GCA. These concepts have resonated throughout the organization, and it is now our collective stewardship, leadership, and friendship that have recorded the story of this most successful year, the GCA's 103rd.

*In that context, this annual report will highlight the work of the national committees and of our clubs and the collective impact in communities across the country. To each and every volunteer in whatever capacity you serve, thank you for saying yes. To club presidents, I applaud you and the 200 clubs that are the heartbeat of the GCA. To the professional staff, we are grateful for your hard work with us to streamline organizational processes judiciously. Together we move things forward.*

*The activities of the GCA are steeped in tradition but ever evolving. The only thing more certain than change is today's speed of change. As an organization, we must continually ask questions: Are we managing time and talent – our own – to best purpose? In what initiatives should we invest our time and energies? Are we fulfilling our responsibility to*

*plan for a secure financial future? What is our leadership role in the fields of our endeavors? Are we interacting with other like-minded organizations in the most effective ways? How is the changing world of volunteerism affecting the GCA?*

*Above all, we must ask if what we do supports the purpose of the organization. We must direct all our resources and actions to support the purpose. We must emphasize the intersection of club, zone, and national efforts to more strongly affect the pressing issues of climate change, clear air, clean water, national parks and public lands, environmental education, and the preservation of native plants to name but a few of the fields of our endeavors. And we should unabashedly embrace beauty, joy, and learning in our gardens and flower shows and the GCA friendships in our lives.*

*In whatever position we serve, each of us has the responsibility and privilege to further the purpose of the GCA through stewardship and leadership at every level. The friendships made along the way enrich our lives. Together we continue a legacy for our children and grandchildren and the planet. It must be even greater than the valuable legacy entrusted to us.*

Anne Copenhaver, President, 2015-17





*Fayette Weaver and Jane Coulter fell a dead tree in Mill Mountain GC's 2.5-acre wildflower garden atop Mill Mountain in Roanoke, Virginia. Over the past 46 years, club members have invested 80,000 hours in removing invasive plants and restoring native species in the garden.*



# Stewardship

Nearly 18,000 individuals across the country share responsibility for stewardship of the 103-year-old organization, The Garden Club of America. Guided by unyielding commitment to purpose and core values, they are entrusted with serving as stewards of the property, finances, and affairs of the GCA. The 18,000 of the GCA also are stewards of the places where they live. As they undertake their stewardship obligation, and honor their heritage in spirit and action, they endeavor to do more than seems possible with less than seems sufficient. They are able to rely on the work of ten professional staff members who manage operations at GCA Headquarters and support member clubs and the 500 volunteers serving at the national level.

During the 2015-16 fiscal year, the GCA recognized eight decades of making significant community grants, disbursed a record amount for scholarships, saw major activity in the preservation of gardening history in America and in the stewardship of native plants, updated GCA Headquarters to better serve member clubs, and launched an endowment campaign.

**82 Founders Fund projects since 1936,  
with more than \$1,494,500 invested  
in local communities**

Since 1936, the GCA has stewarded monetary resources to enable a significant financial award, the Founders Fund, that supports projects in local communities. Established in memory of the GCA's

first president, Elizabeth Price Martin, each club annually casts a vote for one of three projects proposed by GCA clubs. In 2016, \$30,000 was awarded to Beacon Hill GC to support a civic improvement project at the historic Washington Memorial Garden at the Old North Church in Boston, a partner of the club for more than sixty years. The funds are being used to reconfigure the garden to create additional space for the thousands of students who visit the church annually to learn about our nation's heritage. Two clubs received runner-up awards of \$10,000 each to support projects in Beaumont, Texas, and Hartford, Connecticut.



*A 2016 Founders Fund award of \$30,000 was used to help reconfigure the garden and courtyard at Boston's most visited historic site, the Old North Church, where many artifacts were unearthed. Beacon Hill GC has been a partner of the church for more than 60 years.*

As stewards of scholarship, the GCA nurtures the next generation of experts in horticulture and its related disciplines. In 2016, funds were available for the GCA's 27 merit-based scholarships resulting in 91 scholars awarded more than \$360,000 for academic endeavors ranging from summer environmental study and field work to graduate-level research projects.

The GCA is a leader in preserving America's gardening history. In the early 1990s, the GCA donated its collection of 3,500 rare glass lantern slides and more than 22,000 35mm slides to the Smithsonian Institution, forming the core of its Archives of American Gardens (AAG). The legacy continues, as GCA clubs document and propose gardens for inclusion in the archives, growing the collection to more than 7,500 gardens and 100,000 images today, a significant source for research. Forty-eight gardens were added to the collection in the past year, and the AAG engaged its twenty-first GCA intern. Thirty percent of requests for information and research from the AAG staff involved holdings in the GCA collection, and the museum staff spent nearly a quarter of its time on the GCA collection and related tasks.



*In 2016, forty-eight gardens were added to The Garden Club of America Collection, Smithsonian Institution Archives of American Gardens, including the Logan desert garden in Scottsdale, Arizona, documented by Columbine GC.*



### Rare Book Collection Finds New Home at New York Botanical Garden Library

In 2016, the GCA's Rare Book Collection found a new home at the New York Botanical Garden (NYBG) in the LuEsther T. Mertz Library, one of the top three botanical libraries in the world. Through the generous donations of club members over the years, the GCA amassed an important collection of more than 600 volumes which had been housed in a rare book closet at Headquarters. To better conserve the collection and to make it more accessible for research, an agreement was reached with the NYBG for a long-term deposit. The GCA retains ownership of the collection, while the NYBG maintains, stores, exhibits, and provides access to scholars as well as to the GCA. Each volume bears a bookplate indicating its inclusion in the GCA collection. The books also are catalogued in the NYBG collection database.



Environmental stewardship is at the core of GCA endeavors. Through the Partners for Plants (P4P) program, for example, the GCA monitors rare plants, preserves native habitats, and propagates plants for restoration and to increase biodiversity on publicly owned lands of 150 acres or more. During the 2016 centennial year of the U.S. National Park Service (NPS), the GCA commemorated nearly a quarter-century of P4P projects in national parks. Sixteen P4P projects have been located in NPS units since 1992, and presently there are six projects: Acadia National Park, Big Thicket National Preserve, Congaree National Park, Dumbarton Oaks Park, Great Smoky Mountain National Park, and Lookout Mountain Battlefield Point Park.

### 45 Partners for Plants projects in 26 states

The year 2015-16 also saw establishment of a Planting for Pollinators initiative through which volunteers compiled information about native plants that attract the most pollinators to gardens in each of the GCA's twelve geographic zones. Clubs created educational displays in their communities to raise awareness of selecting plants that support pollinators.

As stewards of the infrastructure that provides members the support needed to improve their communities and grow new generations of leaders, the GCA in 2015 signed a fifteen-year renewal lease for Headquarters. Plans were developed to update the facilities for doing business in the twenty-first century, while respecting the heritage and tradition of our organization. The new lease agreement includes a generous allotment from the building owner which, together with monies set aside in the general operating budget, covers the renovation cost.

### \$363,400 awarded to 91 scholars in 2016

The Second Century Campaign began its development to secure the financial future of the GCA, with a goal of raising \$8 million by the close of 2019. By strengthening its endowment, the GCA will continue to advance the education of club members and their communities and cultivate leadership and innovative ideas in horticulture, conservation, and national affairs and legislation.



*New Canaan GC took a field trip to nearby Red Bee Apiary as part of a club focus on pollinators during 2016.*



*The GC of Lookout Mountain hosted a Weed Wrangle in the city's Point Park to eradicate bush honeysuckle, honeysuckle vine, kudzu, privet, and winter creeper.*

- Five Tennessee garden clubs, led by the GC of Nashville, sponsored Weed Wrangles in their communities to combat invasive plants on public lands, hosting nearly twenty events with a dozen community partners and more than a thousand participants. Volunteers banded together for hands-on removal of especially harmful trees, vines, and flowering plants. The GC of Nashville created a template to encourage GCA clubs and other organizations throughout the country to mount their own Weed Wrangle projects.



- GC of Michigan renewed its commitment to help Belle Isle Park, Detroit's 900-acre Frederick Law Olmsted-designed island park needing restoration, preservation, and conservation. The club is remediating two large beds, removing invasive plants and contaminated soil, and designing and installing above-ground planters that will lend seasonal beauty and color.



- Ten Philadelphia garden clubs united to restore the Magnolia Tribute Garden. In 1959, the GCA gave this garden to Independence National Historic Park to honor the original thirteen states and President George Washington's love of magnolias. The restoration includes a new irrigation system, replacement of azaleas, the addition of hydrangeas, and the planting of perennial groundcovers and bulbs.



- GC of East Hampton received the New York Flora Association's Native Plant Conservationist Award for its multi-year Partners for Plants project to help revive the last existing population of *Platanthera ciliaris*, the yellow-fringed orchid, in New York State. The one remaining blooming plant and some twenty sterile leaves indicating potential blooming plants have been protected from deer and hikers with wire cages and flags, and trees have been pruned to improve light conditions.



*The endangered yellow-fringed orchid, being protected by the GC of East Hampton at the Barnes Hole Nature Preserve.*

- Six GCA clubs collaborated in the Bay Visions initiative to help restore and protect the Monterey, San Francisco, and other bays of Northern California and to educate their communities on the bays' environmental importance. In January 2016, 300 club members gathered for a Bay Visions Day to hear presentations by experts and deepen understanding of bays and estuaries in the state. Clubs endorsed and worked to help pass a June 2016 ballot initiative providing a long-term source of funding to protect the San Francisco Bay.



*In Monterey Bay's Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Sanctuary Research Reserve, club members pulled invasive weeds, pruned coyote bush and California sagebrush, harvested common rush seeds, and planted gum plant.*





*Nearly 300 GCA club members participated in the 33rd National Affairs & Legislation Meeting in Washington, D.C., in 2016*



# Leadership

**T**he GCA leads with a commitment to excellence and the belief that it can make a difference in the world for coming generations. This is borne out through 103 years of the dedication, vision, and accomplishments of those who have served before.

During 2015-16, examples of the GCA's leadership were numerous. The organization renewed an alliance with the U.S. National Park Service to conserve native plants and their habitats. The GCA encouraged club leaders nationwide to advocate for protection of the environment through the annual National Affairs & Legislation Meeting in Washington, D.C. The organization also formally opposed the destruction of an important public garden in our nation's capital. The GCA was recognized for its



own leadership efforts by an esteemed conservation nonprofit, and the GCA recognized leadership in others by honoring ten individuals and organizations with national medals for excellence in the fields of the GCA's endeavors and by naming four new honorary members.



*The GCA renewed its historic memorandum of understanding with the U.S. National Park Service during 2016. Acadia National Park, Maine.*





### Sarah S. Carey Receives Royal Horticultural Society's Veitch Medal

*Green Spring Valley GC member Sarah S. Carey received the 2016 Veitch Memorial Medal from the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS), one of its highest honors. The medal recognizes outstanding contribution to the advancement of the science and practice of horticulture and was presented in London on February 25 by the RHS. Carey's contributions relate to the GCA/RHS Interchange Fellowship, considered one of the most prestigious scholarships of its kind. As liaison to the RHS from 2007-14, Carey was instrumental in formalizing the relationship with the RHS, expanding the program, and serving as an ambassador to the RHS on behalf of the GCA and recipients of the fellowship.*

A memorandum of understanding was renewed during 2016 with the U.S. National Park Service (NPS). The GCA and the NPS work together on conservation and education programs in the national park system to benefit native plants and their habitats through Partners for Plants projects.

The GCA celebrated its long-time partnership with the NPS during its centennial year by making national parks the conservation theme for 2015-16. The *PARK it!* campaign encouraged club members to visit one or more national parks to enjoy what has been preserved and to post stories and experiences on the GCA website in the Club Member Showcase, an interactive space for club members to share, discover, and connect.

The GCA is a leader among nonprofit volunteer organizations in advocacy for the environment, presenting congressional testimony, preparing nonpartisan position papers, and hosting an annual conference in Washington, D.C. The 33rd National Affairs & Legislation Meeting, held February 22-25, 2016, was focused on environmental challenges and science. More than thirty speakers, including members of Congress and leaders of eminent environmental nonprofits, reminded the 288 GCA delegates of the importance of taking action to encourage commitment to conservation. Following two days of presentations, delegates visited Capitol Hill for small-group meetings with legislators and their staff members.

The GCA joined a growing number of organizations formally registering opposition to the Smithsonian Institution South Mall Campus Master Plan, which would require demolishing the Enid A. Haupt Garden, a four-acre public garden that is part of the Smithsonian Castle quadrangle. The GCA called on Smithsonian planners to undertake further study to assess and address the period of significance for the garden, to revisit whether the garden should





*The GCA is fighting to help preserve the Enid A. Haupt Garden, proposed for destruction in the Smithsonian Institution South Mall Campus Master Plan.*

be included on the National Register of Historic Places, and to honor the terms of Mrs. Haupt's gift.

On June 8, 2016, the GCA was awarded the 2016 Land Conservation Award by the Open Space Institute (OSI) for more than a hundred years of advocating for conservation across the nation, including staunch support of the NPS Land and Water Conservation Fund. In addition, OSI cited the GCA's commitment to preserving important natural landscapes and the critical resources they protect. Founded in 1974, OSI protects scenic, natural, and historic landscapes to provide public enjoyment, conserve habitat and working lands, and sustain communities. OSI has partnered in the conservation of nearly 2.2 million acres in North America.

Since 1920, the GCA has awarded medals for outstanding achievement in many different areas related to horticulture, botany, conservation, historic

preservation, environmental protection, flower arrangement, landscape design, and literature. Ten national medals were awarded at the 2016 GCA Annual Meeting in Minneapolis, May 19-23.

**David P. Barnett** received the Distinguished Service Medal for outstanding service in the field of horticulture. During his twenty-three-year tenure as president and chief executive officer, Mount Auburn Cemetery in Massachusetts has risen to the highest horticultural standards in its 185-year history.

Noted environmental litigator and nationally recognized persistent foe of billboards **William D. Brinton** received the Cynthia Pratt Laughlin Medal for outstanding achievement in environmental protection and the maintenance of the quality of life.

**Carrol L. Henderson** of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources received the Frances K. Hutchinson Medal for his lifetime of service to





*2016 national medalists, back row, l-r, Carrol L. Henderson; David Barnett; Denise Ryan, accepting for the U.S. National Park Service; William D. Brinton; Paul B. Redman, accepting for Longwood Gardens; and William D. Rieley. Front row, l-r, MaryEllen O'Brien; Diane Ragone; Ellen Mosley-Thompson; Lonnie G. Thompson; and Arete S. Warren.*

wildlife and natural resource conservation. Among Henderson's most significant accomplishments was developing a statewide program for nongame wildlife conservation that has received national and international recognition.

**Longwood Gardens** was recognized with the Eloise Payne Luquer Medal for special achievements in botany, setting a gold standard for education of individuals at all ages.

**MaryEllen O'Brien** of The Lenox GC received the Katharine Thomas Cary Medal for outstanding achievement in the field of floral design education.

**Diane Ragone**, director of the Breadfruit Institute of the National Tropical Botanical Garden in Hawai'i, received the Medal of Honor as a pioneering

horticulturalist of world renown who has dedicated her life to ending world hunger through conservation of breadfruit and a global effort to expand its cultivation and use.

**William D. Rieley**, landscape architect, received the Historic Preservation Medal as an extraordinary example for all who seek to preserve America's garden heritage and for his preservation of Virginia gardens with local, state, and national significance.

**Dr. Lonnie G. Thompson and Dr. Ellen Mosley-Thompson**, of the Byrd Polar and Climate Research Center at The Ohio State University, received the Margaret Douglas Medal for forty years of work as legendary pioneers contributing to the documentation of climate change.



**The U.S. National Park Service** received the Elizabeth Craig Weaver Proctor Medal for a century of dedication to conservation of the nation's natural resources for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations.

**Arete Warren** of Millbrook GC received the Achievement Medal. An historian, author, and lecturer, Warren developed an acclaimed public exhibition of 125 rare books in the GCA's collection, *Gardening by the Book, Celebrating 100 Years of The Garden Club of America*, covering 400 years of botanical and gardening literature.

Each year, the GCA recognizes extraordinary leadership in gardening, conservation, and education through the extension of honorary membership to men and women of distinction who are not, nor ever have been, members of a GCA club. Honorary membership is limited, and a maximum of four are selected each year. Three honorary members were named for 2016 and recognized at the annual meeting.

Robert E. Grese, Theodore Roosevelt Chair of Ecosystem Management at the University of Michigan and director of the Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum, was recognized for research and teaching that revolve around ecologically based landscape design and management sensitive to a region's cultural and natural history.

Kris S. Jarantoski, executive vice president and director of the Chicago Botanic Garden for thirty-nine years, has been a driving force in the Garden's evolution into one of the best public gardens in the world.

Douglas W. Tallamy, professor in the Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware, was recognized as the father of a movement for his knowledge, breadth of experience, and willingness to spread the word about biodiversity and the unbreakable link between plant species and native wildlife.

### Aster 'Raydon's Favorite' Named GCA Plant of the Year

*Symphyotrichum oblongifolium* var. *angustatus* 'Raydon's Favorite', a native aster, was named 2016 Plant of the Year. Annually since 1995, the GCA has identified a stellar North American native plant to receive its Montine McDaniel Freeman Medal for Plant of the Year.



*Aster* 'Raydon's Favorite' is noted for compact form, winter hardiness, flower production, disease and pest resistance, and cultural durability. Root hardy in USDA Zones 3 through 9, the perennial also is deer resistant, drought tolerant, and low maintenance, with nectar attracting beneficial insects and butterflies.







*A blue ribbon winner in the Stamford public schools Lettuce Challenge, a collaboration of three area garden clubs.*

- Each spring since 2010, hundreds of lettuce plugs donated by a local nursery are distributed by three Connecticut garden clubs to second graders throughout ten Stamford public schools. The Lettuce Challenge growing competition helps children learn a valuable lesson about the benefits of food from the garden to the table. Every child is a winner, thanks to the Connecticut Valley GC, Ridgefield GC, and The Stamford GC, originator of the program.



*Lynne Mitchell, member of the GC of Chevy Chase, greeting visitors and collecting tickets at the club's inaugural garden tour.*

- GC of Chevy Chase inaugurated a garden tour through seven gardens in the historic village, drawing 600 visitors. Proceeds from the 2016 tour supported the restoration of Chevy Chase Circle and the development of Western Grove Park.



- Warrenton GC, Virginia, partnered with Fauquier Education Farm to start 7,000 vegetables seeds that helped to provide 50,000 pounds of food for hungry families in three counties. Fresh produce grown on the farm was distributed to local food banks for further distribution to those in need.



- Little Compton GC, Rhode Island, led forty inner-city children in a *Go Wet and Wild* stewardship and conservation program, making sailboats out of plastic boxes to race down Dunderly Brook in order to learn about water flow and wind.



*Wilbour Woods was the site of a Little Compton GC conservation education program for 40 inner-city children.*

- To gain attention for recycling, the *Vogue en Fleurs* flower show of The Monroe Garden Study League, Louisiana, featured a conservation exhibit that was a riff on fashion shows. Mannequins were dressed in repurposed cardboard, magazines, clear plastic bottles, and soda cans and posed along a pleated newspaper runway. After the show, the exhibit was donated to the Northeast Louisiana Children's Museum.







*The June 2016 Visiting Gardens trip to the 20th annual Newport, Rhode Island, flower show.*



# Friendship

“To share the advantages of association,” from the GCA’s purpose statement, helps explain how so many significant things get accomplished across the landscape of the GCA. It represents a generous attitude that feeds positive collaboration and friendship and binds the organization. United in purpose and upholding common standards of excellence, club members work together to stimulate the best efforts of all and make important things happen. In giving of individual time, talents, and energy, club members are friends not only to each other, but also to their communities and to the environment. Friendship is at the heart of all and sets the stage for what can be done together.

Whether learning from economists, environmentalists, and farmers about revitalization in southern Virginia, exploring the gardens of Cuba, or taking flower show inspiration from the artwork of developmentally disabled adults, GCA club members accomplished much in 2015-16 while sharing fellowship.

The GCA encourages club members to attend conferences and workshops and to engage in visiting gardens together. The more often club members meet and travel together, the more the organization flourishes. Trips and workshops develop enthusiasm for the many opportunities presented by the GCA.



*The September 2015 Shirley Meneice Horticulture Conference met in Seattle.*





*The Photography Study Group gathered in Arches National Park just north of Moab, Utah, for a four-day adventure lead by Colleen Miniuk-Sperry.*



*Having a bully of a time at the 2016 GCA Annual Meeting were, l-r, Missy Jensen, Conservation Committee chairman, Colleen FitzPatrick, annual meeting co-chairman, Teddy Roosevelt repressor Joe Wiegand, and Betsy Massie, annual meeting co-chairman.*



The GCA offers an annual horticulture conference; an annual national affairs and legislation meeting in Washington, D.C.; and a number of judging and floral design workshops and photography study and visiting gardens trips annually, open to all club members. In addition, a committee conservation study trip is held each year.

In September 2015, nearly 200 delegates gathered for the three-day Shirley Meneice Horticulture Conference, *From Mountains to Sound* in Seattle, with visits to Seattle's University of Washington Botanic Gardens, its Center for Urban Horticulture and Washington Park Arboretum, and the Bellevue Botanical Garden.

GCA leaders often gather together in New York City or elsewhere across the country in friendship to do the work of their committees. As an example, the GCA's conservation and national affairs and legislation leadership met with thirty-five southern Virginia economists, farmers, industrialists, scientists, and environmentalists during an annual conservation study trip in September 2015. The GCA leaders learned about the region's poverty, due to falling demand for tobacco, and about efforts to reinvent the economy while protecting the environment via new approaches to agriculture, forestry, technology, and tourism.

Flower Arranging Study Group workshops in 2015-16 involved 175 GCA club members studying in Vancouver, Boston, and New Orleans with international floral designers Hitomi Gilliam from Canada, Lana Bates from France, and Björn Kroner from Germany.

*Shirley Meneice, seated, on a tour of Seattle's Elisabeth C. Miller Botanical Garden with Curator Richie Steffen and Horticulture Committee leadership, l-r, Barbara Tuffli, committee chairman, Katherine Shepperly, vice chairman, propagation and seed share, and Linda Grieve, vice chairman, the 2017 Shirley Meneice Horticulture Conference.*



Photography study group trips in 2015-16 took sixty-two club members to Moab, Phoenix, and Portland for multi-day workshops with leading instructors including Paul Gill, Denise Ippolito, Colleen Miniuk-Sperry, Roger Morin, and Bryan Peterson.

Garden trips were arranged to a variety of destinations, from journeys to Cuba, Italy, and Ireland to a visit to the Newport Flower Show during its twentieth anniversary and a trip to Deep South gardens in Jackson, Laurel, and Natchez, Mississippi. Approximately 150 members on six trips experienced local history, culture, and architecture, as well as spectacular gardens.

A large endeavor like a fundraiser or flower show also builds camaraderie and strength among members. Thirty-one flower shows were offered by clubs and zones during 2015-16.

A flower show is a single activity that embodies every aspect of the GCA purpose. In the horticulture division, cut specimens stimulate the knowledge of plant material indigenous to the show area and promote the love of gardening. A conservation exhibit invites visitors to experience how clubs are stewards of the environment by educating how to restore, improve, and protect the natural world. The creativity and beauty of floral designs delight the senses and inspire others to explore common areas of interest. Botanical arts and photography offer additional opportunities for combining creative exploration and craftsmanship. Flower show entry is open to exhibitors from GCA clubs, and shows are open to the public.

The GCA's clubs continued to flourish in 2015-16. Seventeen clubs celebrated centennials, marking this milestone with major gifts to their communities. The GCA officially added a member club, the eighty-five-year-old Marin GC, which became a permanent member of the GCA in 2015, after a five-year initial membership period. Established in 1931, the club



*GCA club members toured Florence during the May 2016 ten-day Visiting Gardens Committee trip to Tuscan villas and gardens.*



*The award-winning tablescape entry by Sue Blum, Paige de Buys, and Jane Terrill in the GC of Cincinnati 2016 GCA Flower Show The Merry Month of May.*



*Conservation Study Trip participants enjoying their 2015 trip to southern Virginia.*



## Club Centennials 2015-16

### ZONE I

North Shore GC, *Manchester, Massachusetts*

### ZONE 2

Greenwich GC, *Greenwich, Connecticut*

GC of Hartford, *Hartford, Connecticut*

Middletown GC, *Middletown, Connecticut*

Newport GC, *Newport, Rhode Island*

Washington GC, *Washington, Connecticut*

### ZONE III

Rochester GC, *Rochester, New York*

Rye GC, *Rye, New York*

### ZONE IV

Plainfield GC, *Plainfield, New Jersey*

### ZONE V

GC of Allegheny County, *Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania*

### ZONE VII

Fauquier and Loudoun GC, *Middleburg, Virginia*

James River GC, *Richmond, Virginia*

### ZONE IX

GC of Lookout Mountain, *Lookout Mountain, Tennessee*

### ZONE XI

Kenilworth GC, *Kenilworth, Illinois*

Lake Geneva GC, *Lake Geneva, Wisconsin*

### ZONE XII

GC of Santa Barbara, *Santa Barbara, California*

Pasadena GC, *Pasadena, California*



*From GC of Santa Barbara to the GC of Allegheny County, there was plenty of cake for club centennial celebrations during 2015-16.*



has sixty-four members. Recent notable activities include documenting a garden for the Smithsonian Institution Archives of American Gardens, awarding scholarships, and hosting the club's first flower show.

Friendship continues at the national level long after active service to the GCA is completed. Current club members who have served as GCA officers, directors, zone chairmen, committee chairmen, and chairmen or co-chairmen of annual meetings are appointed to the Board of Associates (BOA) as a way to honor service to the GCA and continue friendships and associations through meetings and an annual trip. The 2016 BOA trip to Atlanta, *Garden Hues and City Venues in Hotlanta*, March 29 – April 2, gave thirty participants the opportunity to see old Atlanta and the twenty-first century city in full bloom.



*The Board of Associates visited the Atlanta Botanical Garden during the 2016 annual BOA trip to that city in 2016.*





- For more than twenty years, members of Founders GC of Sarasota, Florida, have placed a wrapped gift and a member-made live boxwood and red carnation Christmas arrangement on 500 Meals on Wheels trays.



- The 61st Annual Palm Beach House and Garden Day was hosted by the GC of Palm Beach, Florida, raising funds that are invested directly back into the community for garden projects, civic space improvements, and conservation and education programs.



Ladue GC members Margot Bean and Leslie Dimit interpreted a child's fantastical work of art during a 2015 two-club flower show at the St. Louis Center for Creative Arts.

- Two St. Louis garden clubs collaborated with the Center for Creative Arts (COCA) to organize *COCA in Bloom 2015*, a non-judged flower show inspired by the artwork of inner-city children. The partnership introduced children to flowers and plants through a field trip to the Missouri Botanical Garden, where they were acquainted with the concept of Latin names for plant species. The children subsequently drew their own flowers and gave them unique fantasy names. St. Louis and Ladue GC members created floral designs inspired by the drawings.



- Hillsborough GC in California partnered with Oakland's Creative Growth Art Center, a working art studio for developmentally disabled adults, to produce a flower show that increased public awareness of the artists' capabilities and achievements. Their works inspired entries in floral design, horticulture, photography, botanical arts, and conservation. Proceeds from sales of the artists' works and other unique items directly benefitted the art center.



- Stony Brook GC, New Jersey, held a uniquely themed dinner party, *A Downton Abbey Affair*, featuring an authentic 1920s menu and tuxedos and period dress, all to benefit the Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association and to support club operations.







THE GARDEN CLUB  
of AMERICA

Corporate Headquarters • 14 East 60th Street 3rd Floor • New York, NY 10022

Phone: 212.753.8287 • [gca@gcamerica.org](mailto:gca@gcamerica.org)

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*If you find any errors, please email [communications@gcamerica.org](mailto:communications@gcamerica.org).*